

RIVER AND LAKE NAVIGATION.

Steamboats can run up from New Westminster to Douglas, the head of steamboat navigation on Harrison Lake (50 miles from mouth of Harrison River), as well as from New Westminster to Yale, but the Douglas route to the interior is not at present used.

The Fraser River, above Yale, is not available for much navigation. A steamer relieves transport on the waggon road when required, from Soda Creek, 20 miles below Alexandria, to Quesnel (see Map), 40 miles above that point; or some 20 miles higher when necessary. The navigation is then interrupted by a rapid, the ascent of which is not attempted. Above this point there is clear navigation for steamers for a distance of 60 miles, to within 20 miles of Fort George, where another rapid, impracticable for steamers, occurs. From this point upwards, both by the Stuart and Fraser Lake branches, and in the direction of Tête Jaune's Cache, there are stretches very favourable for steam navigation; but the occasional breaks are a great drawback. Nevertheless, with the extension of mining operations these portions of the river will doubtless in time be made available, in parts, so as to meet the increased demand for transport; and inducements for settlement will thus arise in the upper portion of the province which do not at present exist.

There is a useful stretch of navigation on the Thompson River. From Savona's, at the lower (western) end of Kamloops Lake, uninterrupted steamboat navigation extends through Kamloops Lake, and up the South Thompson River to the upper (eastern) end of Great Shuswap Lake, a distance of 115 miles, and also up the North Branch of Thompson River, which joins the South Thompson at Fort Kamloops, to a distance of 85 miles from the latter post.

The Columbia, Nasse, and Skena Rivers are navigable for short distances by light steamboats. So also, of course, are the Okanagan and other lakes.

Travelling may be said to be at present very expensive in British Columbia, whether by steamboat or coach, compared with the cost of travel in Eastern Canada or England.

Climate.

This is perhaps the main point in choosing a place for a home. Parents will agree with me that fair fields and meadows are little to the emigrant, if they generate fever-producing miasm and vapour. What are soft breezes if they waft the seeds of pestilence? What cares a man for golden grain and mellow fruits, or indeed for all that this world can yield, if disease annually visit his dwelling? British Columbia may be said to be the very land of health—for man, for beast, for tree. This fact will have a mighty influence on her future.

General Characteristics of Climate.

The fine climate should be known everywhere—variable, but healthful and agreeable—nights cool, very suitable to the Anglo-Saxon constitution, and, indeed, to all races and temperaments—the altitude, irregularity of surface, serene air and absence of marshy plains, promise health and long life to the settler—no malaria or ague—good in cases of functional and nervous debility—makes people feel vigorous and wide awake—the climate of a large part of the East Cascade region not unfavourable for chest affections. Over a great portion of the province the climate is that of England, with rather agreeable